

FRIENDS OF THE COURT

Published by the Arkansas Administrative Office of the Courts

Volume 6, No. 4 / January, 1999

Supreme Court Justices Sworn In for New Terms

Four Associate Justices on the Arkansas Supreme Court were sworn in on January 7th by Chief Justice W.H. "Dub" Arnold. Justices Donald Corbin, Robert Brown and Annabelle Imber have begun eight year terms on the Supreme Court. Justice Lavenski Smith, having been appointed by Governor Mike Huckabee to finish out the term of retiring Senior Justice David Newbern, will be serving as an Associate Justice until the end of December, 2000.



(L. to R.) Justice Brown, Chief Justice Arnold, Justice Corbin, Justice Imber and Justice Smith

Trial Courts Expand



(Foreground-L. to R.) Case Coordinator Lynn Simco, Judge Mary Ann Gunn, and Judge Mike Fitzhugh listen to a presentation on Case Management.

Fifteen new general jurisdiction judges took the bench on January 1, 1999. In preparation for their new position, they attended a week long New Judges Orientation Course conducted in Little Rock by the Administrative Office of the Courts. The new trial judges for the State include: David Laser/2nd Circuit, Mary Ann Gunn/4th Circuit, Stacey Zimmerman/4th Circuit, Kenneth Coker, Jr./5th Circuit, Mackie Pierce/6th Circuit, Grisham

Phillips/7th N. Circuit, Duncan Culpepper/8th N. Circuit, John Thomas/9th E. Circuit, Bynum Gibson/10th Circuit, James R. Marschewski/12th Circuit, Michael J. Fitzhugh/12th Circuit, Edwin Keaton/13th Circuit, John Homer Wright/18th E. Circuit, Alan Epley/19th E. Circuit, and Gary Cottrell/21st Circuit.

In addition, new case coordinators from around the State attended a two day session in order to learn more about



(Foreground L. to R.) New General Jurisdiction Judges Alan Epley, Kenneth Coker, and John Thomas learn more about their responsibilities at the New Judges Orientation.

their new position. New case coordinator faces include: Brenda Welch/2nd Cir., Lynn Simco/4th Cir., Sandra Gaisbauer/6th Cir., Rose Sykes/6th Cir., Lisa Graves, 7th N. Cir., Kit Lucena/8th N. Cir., Linda Bolding/10th Cir., Tonya Gill/13th Cir., Eunice Dunkin/14th Cir., Sharri Stewart/17th E. Cir., Shari Hamilton/18th E. Cir., Vicki Kell/19th E. Cir., Jacuelyn Walden/19th W. Cir., and Mariesa Baker/21st Cir.



82nd General Assembly Convenes

Parking is scarce and the restaurants in Little Rock are full as the 1999 session of the Arkansas General Assembly began on January 11 with the swearing-in of members followed by the Governor's State of the Union Address. The Capitol has a "new" look with the advent of term limits and the addition of 57 freshman House members. The predominant issues before the session will likely be tax reform and roads, with juvenile justice reform following close behind.

The Administrative Office of the Courts will be monitoring the session and pursuing legislative agendas adopted by members of the state and local courts. Issues of concern identified by the Arkansas Judicial Council include:

1. **Judicial Article - Major reform of the Arkansas Court System is sought with the referral of a new judicial article which would consolidate courts of law and equity, provide for the nonpartisan election of all judges, and eliminate the multiple types and functions of limited jurisdiction courts and create a single district court in each county.**

2. **Juvenile Justice Reform - Items of interest to juvenile division judges include funding of ad litem counsel in dependency/neglect cases and in chancery cases where custody is an issue, the adoption of "blended sentencing" in serious delinquency cases, and the establishment of time tables in certain juvenile cases to comply with new federal requirements.**

3. **Retirement - A major overhaul of the Judicial Retirement System which eliminates the use of non-judicial service but rewards longer service on the bench with enhanced benefits will be proposed.**

4. **Jury Service - The current jury fees with a maximum of \$20.00 for each day of service were established in 1953 and have never been raised. Some counties in the state pay jurors \$5.00 per day. In order to keep jury service from becoming a financial hardship, a proposal will be made to establish a uniform jury fee of \$40.00 per day.**

5. **Substitute Case Coordinators - While the state in 1995 assumed responsibility for**

funding salaries for case coordinators, no funding has ever been provided to pay short-term substitutes when the regular coordinator is absent due to lengthy illness or some other problem. Legislation similar to the funding for substitute court reporters will be requested.

6. **New Judgeships - An additional circuit/chancery judgeship for the 5th Judicial Circuit (Pope, Johnson, and Franklin Counties) has been approved by the Judicial Council and recommended to the General Assembly. In addition, the redistricting plan for the Arkansas Court of Appeals which would provide for the election of judges at the next general election and redistricting based upon the 2000 census will be recommended.**

In addition to these issues, hundreds of bills will be introduced which impact judges, courts, and court employees. Should you have questions about any matters being considered by the General Assembly, please feel free to contact the Administrative Office of the Courts. -J.D. Gingerich-
Director, AOC

New Municipal Judges

Twelve new Municipal Judges took the bench as of the first of the year. The Judges include John Aldworth/Canton, Edward Cochran/Lewisville, J.W. Green/Stuttgart, Kenneth Harper/Monticello, Marcia Hearnberger/Hot Springs, Randy Hill/Arkadelphia, Dwayne Lawrence/Melbourne, Ralph Ohm/Hot Springs, Tim Parker/Eureka Springs, Mike Robinson/Benton, Sam Whitfield/Helena, and Tony Yocum/Hope.



Judge Jo Hart (far right) recently elected to the Arkansas Court of Appeals, visits with her law clerks, Adam Harkey & Vickie Warner, and Kathy Spencer, staff attorney for the Court of Appeals, during the reception following the Supreme Court's swearing-in ceremonies Jan. 7th.

SUPREME COURT LIBRARIAN RETIRES

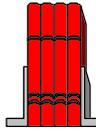


(L. to R.) Retiring Supreme Court Librarian, Jackie Wright, newly appointed Supreme Court Librarian, Tim Holthoff, and Carol Hampton, Assistant Librarian.

After serving as the Arkansas Supreme Court Librarian for the past 19 years, Jackie Wright retired as of the first of the year. Wright looks forward to traveling in the future, but intends to stay active in the library and legal profession.

Tim Holthoff has been chosen as the new Supreme Court Librarian. He has worked in the Supreme Court Library since 1991 on a full time basis. Holthoff obtained a Bachelor of Science in computer science and a Masters Degree in Library Science from Vanderbilt University. In January of 1998, Holthoff graduated from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock Law School with high honors.

In addition to Holthoff and Hampton, Ava Hicks has been hired to serve as Assistant Librarian II.



New Staff Attorney in AOC

John Millar has been employed as an additional attorney in the Research and Special Projects Division of the Administrative Office of the Courts. Millar replaces Peggy Matson who has gone into the private practice of law. Mr. Millar has practiced as a deputy prosecuting attorney in the Sixth and Seventeenth East Judicial Circuits, has served as an administrative hearing officer for the Department of Human Services, and comes to the position after having served as an employee of the University of Arkansas at Monticello. He is a graduate of Hendrix College and Vanderbilt University School of law.

He will have similar responsibilities which had been assigned to Ms. Matson. He will be the primary contact for research issues relating to criminal law when inquiries are made to the office. He will also have the primary responsibility of staffing the Trial Judge Section and the Legislative Committee of the Judicial Council. In addition, he will be involved on a daily basis during the legislative session in working for passage of the Judicial Council's legislative agenda and tracking other matters of interest to the judiciary.

Construction Begins on Addition to Justice Building



(L. to R.) Justice Imber, Justice Corbin, Justice Newbern, Chief Justice Arnold, Justice Glaze, Justice Brown and Justice Thornton

On December 8, 1998, Arkansas Supreme Court Justices donned their hard hats and broke ground for the new addition to the Justice Building. Construction began in December and is expected to be completed in the Spring of 2000. The new building will provide areas for the Supreme Court Justices' chambers, conference room and law clerks' offices. Staff for the Professional Conduct Committee and the Office of Professional Programs will move to the new building as well. In addition, there will be space for public meetings and facilities to accommodate school and adult groups that visit the Justice Building.

New Faces in the Judiciary

City Judges

Shannon Hills - **Sandra Partridge** replaces Rebecca Brown

Calico Rock - **Dwayne Lawrence** replaces Connie Barksdale

Concord - **Tracy L. Murrell** replaces Cynthia Robinson

City Clerks

Alexander - **Barbara Mescke** replaces Brenda Lee

Shannon Hills - **Marilyn Moore** replaces Doris Eoff

Municipal Judges

Murfreesboro - **Jim Bob Steel** replaces Daniel Graves

Camden - **Ralph Goza** replaces Edwin Keaton



Friends of the Court is a bi-monthly publication by the Arkansas Administrative Office of the Courts. Contributions, comments, and inquiries are welcome. Please submit to **Friends of the Court**, A.O.C., Justice Building, 625 Marshall, Little Rock, AR 72201. Tel. (501) 682-9400. Karolyn Bond, Editor.

Healthline

Calcium is the most abundant mineral in the body. It makes up about 1.5 to 2% of the body's weight and 39% of total body minerals. 99 % of the calcium is in the bones and teeth.

If an individual does not consume enough calcium, the body will steal it from the bones! Bones are always in a state of flux; taking in calcium, losing it, and taking it in again.

Good sources of calcium include milk, cheese, plain yogurt, ice cream, turnip greens, collard greens, bok choy, cottage cheese, sardines, canned salmon and almonds. Recommended adequate intake of calcium:

Males 19-50 years--1000mg

Males 51-70+ years--1200mg

Females 19-50 years--1000mg

Females 51-70 + years--1200mg

Based on information set forth by the Food & Nutrition Board and Institute of Medicine-National Academy of Science, 1998. (Many people have problems digesting milk. If you are one of these people, try drinking calcium fortified orange juice as a substitute.)

CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

Municipal Court Officers 26
(Little Rock)

MARCH

Case Coordinators' Annual Conference (Hot Springs) 4-5

Municipal & City Court Clerks' Certification Program 19
(Little Rock)

APRIL

Spring Judicial College 21-23
(Little Rock)

MAY

Municipal Judges Spring College 13-15
(West Memphis)

Municipal & City Court Clerks' Certification Program 13-15
(West Memphis)

SEPTEMBER

Municipal Judges' Fall College 9-11
(Hot Springs)

Municipal & City Court Clerks' Certification Program 17
(North Little Rock)

Friends of the Court

Administrative Office of the Courts
Justice Building/625 Marshall
Little Rock, AR 72201

Address
Correction
Requested